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THE
U.F.A.

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF
THE UNITED FARMERS OF ALBERTA AND THE ALBERTA WHEAT POOL
AND OTHER PROVINCIAL MARKETING POOLS

Vol. VII | CALGARY, ALBERTA, FEBRUARY 9th, 1928 | No. 4

Second Session
of
Sixth Alberta Legislature
Opens

Reports by
"The U.F.A." Staff Correspondent

Place Agriculture in a Prosperous Condition and Other Problems Will Solve Themselves, States Premier

In Powerful Speech at U.F.A. Convention, J. E. Brownlee Surveys Field of Provincial Activities—Sees Good Times Ahead for Producers of Alberta

"If the people of Canada will turn their attention for the next five years to the one problem of putting agriculture in a prosperous condition, and of bringing about that desirable state of affairs in which those engaged in agriculture may, with those in other industries, receive a fair and adequate return for the time and labor spent in their industry, then, in my opinion, the other problems will solve themselves, and we shall be well along the way to that development for which we hope in the next few years."

This, stated Premier Brownlee, in addressing the U.F.A. Convention on Tuesday, January 17th, had been the message which he had delivered wherever he had been in Canada since his return from Europe. He had satisfied himself of the soundness of this judgment by a study not only of conditions in this Province, but of the relationship between production in Alberta and the situation in the remainder of the Dominion and in Europe.

The President's Apology

Premier Brownlee who received an ovation from the delegates, made a brief survey in the course of his speech of the various fields of Provincial Government activity, and of various other matters which are of concern to both the Federal and Provincial Governments. At a point when President Wood walked on to the platform, the Premier turned and remarked, "Here comes the gentleman now who is responsible for my being here." Without hesitation, and in the most solemn manner, the President rose from his place, and said, "Mr. Chairman, I apologize," plunging the Convention into laughter and applause.

"Only One Evidence"

"I wish the apology had come much sooner," retorted Mr. Brownlee, "But this is only an evidence of the way in which the gentleman who has just intervened has always managed to get the best of me in my short career." (Laughter).

In introducing Mr. Brownlee, E. J. Garland, M.P., the chairman of the evening, remarked that "as a boy the Premier had bad habits—he specialized in political economy and history and in constitutional law, and any boy who will do that sort of thing is destined to have something happen to him. (Laughter). Fortunately, in his after life he fell into good hands. Shortly after he came West he became counsel for your farmers' organizations, and there came in contact with you people every day in the year, with your legal, sociological and economic problems. And so he seems to have grown up with you." Referring to the circumstance that Mr. Brownlee and his Government were returned "with amazing acclaim at the last election," Mr. Garland said there was no doubt in his own mind or that of the audience that he would be similarly returned in future.

Visit to Mother of Parliaments

In his opening remarks, the Premier referred to a visit which he had paid to the "Mother of Parliaments" in England. "I wish I had words," he said, "to describe to you adequately the feelings that came over me as I put on my best bib and tucker and started towards that great pile of masonry which has witnessed so much since the time of Walpole, Pitt and Fox, to Lloyd George, Baldwin and the other eminent gentleman who has just visited this city, and others whose names have become household words; the institution in which they have done so much not only for the British Empire but for the world at large."

Describing some of the debates he had heard, the Premier showed that quibbling and time wasting and the partisan spirit have their manifestations even at Westminster, and on one occasion he "hurried away in order that I might not become homesick and lost my first impression might be utterly spoiled." On other occasions, however, he had listened to men who had lived up to the very highest traditions of the British Parliament.

Recalls Early Days of Democracy

"I come back to this," the Premier went on, "that you have as a Farmers' Convention won a place in the history of the Province, and you come the nearest today, with our rather complex method of expressing public opinion, to the early days of democracy when the people met together in their forum and there they discussed the questions that affected the welfare of the state. And into this forum I come this evening, and I come not for the purpose of speaking about the activities of the Alberta Government in any vainglorious way, neither for the purpose of trying to impress upon you in your deliberations any conclusions that the Government of Alberta has reached—I know how futile that would be—but rather that I might try and challenge your interest and that of all the farmers as you go back to the Locals from which you have come, in some of the questions that must be faced by the Province of Alberta today, and by the people of Alberta."

Recalling a statement made a year ago, to the effect that 1927 would be the closing of an era of reconstruction following years of hardship, and the beginning of another of prosperity and development, Mr. Brownlee said he had had no reason to change that opinion, and he believed the year 1928 found Alberta in a much sounder position financially and otherwise than had been the case for many years.

Overseas he had got a long distance view of conditions in Canada, and had found that people were turning their attention to this Province in a way which had not been known for many years. An English farmer had told him that it cost as much as $1.40 a bushel to raise wheat in that country. As much was paid for rental as Albertans paid for the purchase of farms.

The Premier said that all of the nations of Europe were recovering somewhat from the conditions in the years immediately following the war, and the demand for our products would be greater.

Savings to Farmers

Discussing the things necessary to make agriculture prosperous, Mr. Brownlee outlined the struggle for equitable freight rates, and stated that as a result of the success achieved in the battle with the transportation companies of eastern Canada—which had been fought and won—for the removal of the discrimination between points north and south, and in the reduction of rates to Vancouver to the prairie scale, *the annual savings to farmers of Alberta would be between $600,000 and $900,000 a year.*

It was impossible to carry on any industry unless its life blood, finance, could be obtained at comparatively low rates. "Thanks to the efforts of men like Mr. Garland and his associates from this Province and from other Provinces," the Dominion Government had been induced to pass the Long Term Farm Loans Act. Steps to make this effective in Alberta would be taken by the Provincial Government at the 1927 session.

Highways and Market Roads

Dealing with road transportation, the Premier said that this matter "must challenge every Farmers' Local in the years to come," and he pointed out that while the Government felt that attention must be given to main highways, as an agricultural Province "we must pay more attention than possibly have some of the Eastern Provinces to our secondary or market roads." He answered very emphatically the charge that the Province had not spent as much on roads as had been received from the gasoline and automobile taxes, pointing out that the difference was only $20,000, a very small amount when compared with the millions spent. "As a young and growing Province we must pay some attention to the capital debt, and hence may not be able to do all that some people may think we should." Quebec, which had been held up as an example to Alberta, had three million people as compared with our 600,000, and received $2,533,000 per year as compared with our $954,000. "You have seen and I have seen," said the Premier, "those who have taken the most extreme and exaggerated stand with respect to the development of highways in this Province."

Immigration Questions

With respect to immigration the Alberta Government had contended at the recent Ottawa Conference, that there should be an entire change in the situation as compared with the past. "We suggested that the Dominion Government call each Province into conference and allow that Province to say what they believed to be its power of absorption. That suggestion was very kindly received.

"We have protested rather vigorously against the policies of a few years past which led a great many people to come into this Province without any regard to the question of assimilation."

The London Office

Mr. Brownlee said he believed there was some feeling that the opening of the office in London was not justified, and with equal frankness he stated the reasons why the office was left open. It had been said somewhat unkindly that the only reason was to find a resting place for Mr. Greenfield. "If that were the reason, we could have found a suitable resting

(Continued on page 16)

THE U.F.A.

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W. WOOD MEEK

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EDITORIAL

"THE U.F.A." SPECIAL ISSUES

In accordance with former practice, *The U.F.A.* will be published weekly while the Alberta Legislative Assembly remains in session, and extensive reports of the proceedings in the Assembly will be carried in our columns. The services of James P. Watson of Chinook, whose competent reports and entertaining comment on proceedings last year will be remembered by our members, have again been secured. His first reports appear this week.

* * *

More extensive reports of the proceedings of the U.F.A. Annual Convention than have been published formerly are being presented to our readers this year. All the more important features of the Convention, as well as the routine, are being dealt with as fully as space permits. Reports on a number of important matters dealt with, are held over until next week.

* * *

While the Legislature remains in session, the organization news and other special departments must be curtailed. We regret that a number of letters to the editor, as well as other items of interest submitted by our readers, are unavoidably held over. We hope to make use of these with the least possible delay. In the meantime Local Secretaries are asked to continue to send in brief reports for publication in the organization page of the paper. This department will be resumed next week.

* * *

NEW TASKS

As one of the consequences of the recent meeting in Calgary, when representatives of the various farmers' organizations conferred upon the future of co-operative marketing and kindred subjects, the United Farmers of Alberta will be faced this year by new calls for effort of the most active and energetic sort. If these responsibilities are to be met adequately the Locals and other branches of the Association throughout the Province will need to be brought to increased numerical strength. All members of the organization and all Local and District officers are urged to take steps during the weeks that remain before seeding, to increase their numbers and to perfect their organization in preparation for the tasks of the year. The Directors are willing to give all the assistance it is in their power to give.

* * *

It was said of the English artist and critic, John Ruskin, that "he longed far more to see some order and beauty in human life than for the utmost order and beauty of which paint or stone was capable." It was this desire to see order and co-operation replace competitive anarchy in production and distribution that caused Ruskin to leave his ivory tower of artistic contemplation to interest himself in the mundane business of practical sociology. A similar awakening to social responsibility has led many pioneers of the farmers' movement in this Province, in scores of rural communities, to discard the purely individualist outlook upon their calling, and to seek, in association with their fellows, to bring order and unity and a social spirit into the business and life of agriculture. It is this spirit which will carry the U.F.A.—the pioneer of all co-operative enterprise in Alberta—to new achievements not less important than any of those of the past. The tasks of the U.F.A. will not have been completed until co-operation has displaced competition in the whole of our economic and social life.

* * *

ROTHERMERE AND DISARMAMENT

It has remained for Lord Rothermere, the proprietor of a portion of the British press which has been many times guilty of fanning the flames of passion and national prejudice, and has fulfilled a role in Great Britain comparable to that of the Hearst press in the United States, to utter one of the most solemn warnings against the existing dangers to world peace. Of all men who are in the public eye today, apart from the Italian dictator, possibly none is less open to the charge of being a "pacifist". Yet this is what he had to say in a recent interview:

> "There is no escape from the conclusion that we are once again drifting into the position of fourteen years ago, which made a conflagration inevitable whenever the spark was applied. . . . . Unless the big nations will give a lead in this matter of disarmament we shall probably be embroiled in a second World War of a more disastrous type than the last."

At a time when even Lord Rothermere is expressing concern for disarmament, it clearly behooves the people of Canada to sanction no increase in expenditures of their own Government upon warlike preparation, and to throw the whole weight of whatever influence they may have into the scale against war.

Second Session of Sixth Alberta Legislature Opens—Program Outlined in Speech from the Throne

Farm Loans Legislation Forecast—Marked Improvement in Results of Railway Operation—Travelling Clinics—Brelsa and McCool Move and Second Address.

STAFF CORRESPONDENCE

Large Attendance of Visitors Sees Session Opened

Wreath Placed on Desk of Late Captain Fingle by Colleagues Is Touching Feature.

THURSDAY'S SITTING

EDMONTON, Feb. 2.—Floors and galleries of the Legislative Assembly were taxed to the utmost capacity to accommodate spectators on the opening day of the second session of the Sixth Legislature of the Province of Alberta. This bespeaks a healthy interest in Provincial affairs, a notable feature being that practically every constituency in the Province was represented by some more or less numerous delegation. The farm industry was exceptionally well represented.

A very touching feature was the placing of a beautiful wreath of flowers on the vacant desk of the late Captain C. S. Fingle, Medicine Hat, by Captain Joseph T. Shaw and ex-Mayor Webster, on behalf of the Liberal members of the Legislature as a public expression of the whole-hearted respect and esteem in which the deceased representative and former Speaker of the House was held by his colleagues.

The opening ceremony lasted exactly twenty-five minutes, but in that brief space of time sufficient material in the way of reports, etc., was introduced to indicate a lively and eventful session. The announcement in the Speech with regard to the sale of the Lacombe and North-Western Railway to the C.P.R. as well as the tabling by the Premier of correspondence dealing with a joint offer by the C.P.R. and the C.N.R. for the purchase of the Edmonton, Dunvegan and British Columbia Railway, was a breath-taker.

The Premier made a supplementary statement with regard to the matter when he announced the receipt of a telegram from the C.P.R., purchasers of the L. & N.W., stating that they had decided to build an extension from Brenton to a point at or near Telfordville to be undertaken within one year, instead of the three years' limit as agreed upon originally. This provoked the first and only burst of applause during the initial sitting. A special report on this matter is printed elsewhere.

The Speech from the Throne, which usually mirrors the mind of the Government of the day, was read in his usual strong and dignified manner by the Lieutenant-Governor. The subject matter of the speech deals with questions of considerable weight, and indicates a business-like session, as well as a desire on the part of the Government to get down to hard work on legislative problems of many years' standing. What are considered as signs of weakness by the Labor group are liable to be productive of animated action by that group, principally with regard to the question of Old Age Pensions.

Bill No. 26, an Act to Amend the Village Act, was introduced by the Premier, but contrary to custom first reading of the bill was not proceeded with at that time. The committee to select the various House Committees was appointed and consists of six farmers and three leaders of the groups opposite. This ended the routine and the assembly adjourned.

The Speech follows:

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

Mr. Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly:

It gives me pleasure to welcome you to the opening of the Second Session of the Sixth Legislative Assembly of Alberta, and to congratulate you upon the favorable conditions under which you meet, following a year of unprecedented crop yields, and of notable progress in the development of the various resources of the Province.

Outstanding among the events of the year have been the visits of Their Royal Highnesses the Prince of Wales and Prince George and the Rt. Honorable Stanley Baldwin, Prime Minister of Great Britain; and the Right Honorable L. C. M. S. Amery, Secretary of State for the Overseas Dominions. The warmth of their reception evidences the loyalty of our people to the Crown, and their firm desire to strengthen the ties of common ideals and interest which hold together the constituent parts of the Empire.

A warm and hearty welcome was also accorded to His Excellency Lord Willingdon, Governor General of Canada, and to Lady Willingdon, on the occasion of the first official visit of His Excellency to this Province.

It is fitting at this time to recall the great loss the Empire has sustained in the death of Field Marshall Earl Haig, whose brilliant services as Commander-in-Chief of the British Armies in France and Belgium during the Great War, and subsequent untiring activity on behalf of the men he led, have justly won for him a lasting place in the esteem and affection of all English-speaking peoples.

It is with deep regret that I also recall the loss the Assembly has recently suffered in the death of Mr. C. S. Fingle, Member for the constituency of Medicine Hat, and formerly Speaker of this Assembly. He was an able and devoted servant of the public, and his loss will be keenly felt by the Members of the House and by the people of the Province.

In joining with the other Provinces of Canada in the celebration held during the past summer, in commemoration of the Sixtieth Anniversary of Confederation, our people gave general expression to a spirit of national unity which promises well for the solidarity of Canada in the coming years.

My Government was represented at the Dominion-Provincial Conference convened in Ottawa, in November last, upon the invitation of the Dominion Government. The Conference provided an opportunity for a full and free exchange of views on problems of common interest to the participating Governments, as well as on problems of peculiar concern to individual Provinces.

Besides advocating the necessity for a National Coal Policy, my Ministers took occasion to urge upon the Dominion Government the inadequacy of the financial contributions now made by the Dominion to the Provinces, having regard to the rapidly increasing responsibilities of Provincial Governments.

Although unusual climatic conditions have delayed the completion of the threshing in some parts of the Province and have to some extent affected the quality of grain, nevertheless the year that has closed has been a notable one in crop production; both production and total value exceeding by a wide margin that of any previous year.

The outstanding winnings in livestock and grain by Alberta Exhibitors at the Toronto Royal and Chicago International Shows establish beyond question the high quality of our various agricultural products in competition with exhibits representing all other parts of the continent.

It is also gratifying to note that the production of coal exceeds that of any previous year while increased activity in the development of our oil and tar sand resources gives promise of rapid industrial expansion.

My Government proposes at an early date to invite representatives of industry to a conference to consider what means may be taken to encourage industrial development within the Province.

The improved economic conditions prevailing throughout the Province have been reflected in all aspects of our Provincial life and especially in the demands now made upon our educational institutions and agricultural schools. You will be asked to make provision to meet these increasing demands.

The interim report of the Department of Railways to the end of the calendar year will show a marked improvement in the results of the operation of the Provincial Railways. Measures will be submitted to you for your consideration providing for necessary extensions to the Edmonton, Dunvegan and British Columbia Railway and Central Canada Railway.

Certain offers have been received by my Government for the purchase of the various Provincial Railways, and they will be placed before you for your consideration. An offer by the Canadian

Pacific Railway Company to purchase the Lacombe and North-western Railway has been accepted by my Government and will be submitted for your approval.

Continued and increasing attention is being given towards securing to the fullest measure the general health of the Province. The system of travelling clinics, provided last year, will be extended to meet the demands made upon it. The hospital for the treatment to those suffering from the after-effects of infantile paralysis has been completed and equipped, and its operation will not only prove a blessing to the sufferers, but the research work done will reveal more knowledge of the cause and nature of this disease.

For the second year in succession the season was not favourable for the construction or maintenance of roads; nevertheless the improvement of our highways was energetically carried on toward the completion of the program provided for under the Canada Highways Act. In order to meet the needs of a greatly increased traffic, you will be asked to make provision for an enlarged program of construction and maintenance of roads during the coming year.

The Special Committee appointed at the last Session of the Legislature, to enquire into the subject of Workmen's Compensation and the Acts relating thereto, has completed its work. The report of the committee will indicate the magnitude of the task and the conscientious manner in which it was carried out. You will be asked to consider legislation based upon the findings of the committee.

The Advisory Committee appointed in 1926 to examine into the problems of Revenue and Taxation has completed its duties, and has made an exhaustive and comprehensive report. The material thereby made available should prove exceedingly valuable in dealing with questions relating to Provincial and Municipal finances.

My Government was represented at the general investigation into freight rates made by the Board of Railway Commissioners for Canada during the past year. Counsel for the Province urged upon the Board the elimination of the then existing discriminatory application of freight rates on grain and flour, both eastward and westward. It is gratifying to know that the efforts of the Province have proven successful, and the finding of the Board and subsequent Order has resulted in a great saving to our producers of grain during the past season.

Following the Dominion-Provincial Conference, my Government again discussed with the Dominion Government the return to the Province of its Natural Resources. My Ministers will continue these negotiations, and are hopeful that a satisfactory conclusion may be reached.

You will be asked to consider an Act to Supplement the Dominion Farm Loans Act in order to bring that Act into operation in the Province.

Among other important legislation with which you will be asked to deal, are measures providing for Town and Rural Planning and for further Survey and Research work to ascertain more fully the agricultural, timber, and mineral resources of our Province.

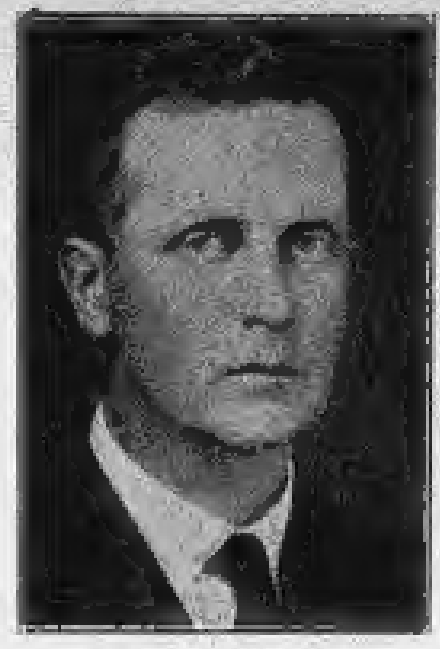
The report of the Committee appointed last Session, by Mr. Speaker, to revise the Rules of the House, will be presented to you for consideration.

During the last Session of the Legislature the end of the fiscal year was changed from the 31st of December to the 31st of March. As a result, the Public Accounts will not, this Session, be available to the House in the usual form. Interim reports of the various Departments of the Government, and Interim Accounts to the end of the year, will be placed before you. Estimates of expenditures for the year ending the 31st March, 1928, will be submitted for your consideration.

I leave you now to the business of the Session with full confidence that you will discharge faithfully your duties and responsibilities in the best interests of the general welfare and progress of the Province.

And I pray that Divine Providence will guide and bless your wor.

MOVER ADDRESS



D. C. BRETON, M.L.A.

Address In Reply Is Moved in Assembly

Breton and McCool Survey Field of Provincial Activities

FRIDAY'S SITTING

EDMONTON, Feb. 3.—The address in reply to the Speech from the Throne was moved and seconded today by two members from the central part of the Province, instead of one from the north and one from south as formerly. D. C. Breton, (U.F.A.) Ledue, led off the discussion, followed by R. M. McCool, (U.F.A.), Cochrane. Both are new members, and had already distinguished themselves as debaters in the 1927 session. Joseph T. Shaw adjourned the debate.

RAILWAY OFFER NOT ACCEPTED OR REJECTED.

On the orders of the day, George Webster, (Lib.), Calgary, asked the Premier if the Government had accepted or rejected the offer of the C.P.R. to purchase the E.D. & B.C. Railway. In reply Mr. Brownlee stated that they had neither accepted nor rejected the offer. As negotiations were in process for the sale of the other railways owned by the Government, and as the Government had been notified by wire of the dispatch of an offer respecting the A. & G.W. from the C.N.R. which would be in their hands in the course of the week end, the Government thought it advisable to wait and consider both offers together, and he assured the members that a date would be set on which a complete statement would be made on the matter.

BRETON MOVES ADDRESS IN REPLY.

D. C. Breton (U.F.A.), Ledue, in moving the address expressed regret that the British Empire had lost a great Commander-in-Chief with the sudden death of Field Marshall Earl Haig of Bemersyde, whose services during the Great War, he said, would never be forgotten. The vacant seat across the Chamber reminded him also of the loss sustained by the Assembly in the recent death of Mr. C. E. Pingle, member for the constituency of Medicine Hat. Mr. Pingle had held the esteem of all members and would be greatly missed.

The member said that great praise was due to the Department of Health and to the physicians throughout the Province for the battle waged against the epidemic of infantile paralysis last year, and to the former for the opening of a Provincial hospital which is to be devoted entirely to the treatment of patients suffering from the after effects of infantile paralysis. Mr. Breton touched on the excellent work accomplished by the travelling clinics last year, saying that he understood the system was to be extended to meet the demands made upon it.

The member, who has always taken an active interest in the livestock industry, said that on account of more active bidding for Canadian Beef Cattle on the part of Chicago interests farmers were taking heart and talking of getting into the cattle business again, and he hoped that the stock they raised should not be scrub; he advocated some form of legislation for the improvement of live stock breeding, allowing rural municipalities if they so desired, to form into pure bred sire areas, with the right to operate their own purebred sire policies.

He gave a resume of the winnings of Alberta live stock last year which, he said, established a record in livestock winnings never previously equalled by any other Province in the Dominion.

It was pleasing to note that although the tide of immigration in 1927 was strong towards Alberta, there had been less unemployment in the Province this winter.

Mr. Breton said it was satisfactory to feel that Alberta stood second in coal production in the Dominion—Nova Scotia holding the first place. Their hope was that an agreeable rate to Ontario would be set on Alberta coal by the Dominion Government this session.

"The Canadian people pay out annually close upon $100,000,000 for fuel and its transportation over American railways. To turn that sum into Canadian channels would be a splendid achievement in the field of national policy."

GOVERNMENT SUCCESS IN OPERATING E.D. & B.C.

Referring to the Provincially owned lines, the member recalled the criticism that was levelled at the Government last session for the taking over of the operation of the E.D. & B.C. Railway from the C.P.R., to the effect that it was "A fatal mistake and bound to end disastrously." The Minister of Railways hesitated at the time that he could see and

reason why the line should not be operated so as to break even at the end of the year on maintenance and operation, or at least as economically as the Canadian Pacific Railway had run it, and incidentally the Canadian Pacific Railway had shown a deficit each year. "*I am pleased to learn that the Government has been able to operate the E.D. & B.C. line throughout the year 1927 and yet show a comfortable surplus over maintenance and operation at the end of the year,*" said the member.

Traffic on this line had increased considerably. Up to the end of December, 1927, six million bushels of grain had been moved, and it was estimated that three million bushels still remained to be removed.

During 1927, 808 homesteads had been filed on, in the Peace River country, and 443 in the Grande Prairie Country, making a grand total of 1252, while 72 Soldier Grants were taken up. This did not include a number of people who purchased lands throughout these districts.

The removal of discriminatory freight rates on grain, eastbound and westbound, had resulted in a considerable saving to the farmers of this Province. Order No. 488 by the Board of Railway Commissioners for Canada had caused a reduction of an average of three-quarters of a cent per bushel on wheat travelling to Fort William from 50 per cent. of C.N.R. and C.P.R. stations in Alberta. A reduction of four-fifths of a cent per bushel on wheat Westbound from 64 per cent. of C.P. stations, and a reduction of 1.06 cents per bushel from 89 per cent. of C.N.R. stations in Alberta. On this basis the westbound rate reduction had averaged one cent per bushel.

Mr. Breton estimated the total savings to farmers at $824,250, this saving being the outcome of 1927 work. The present Government, with the assistance of British Columbia, had secured reductions on grain to Vancouver and Prince Rupert from 31 cents to 21 cents per 100 lbs. during the period from 1922 to September, 1925. He reviewed the history of the endeavors in that regard.

THE PURCHASE OF THE LACOMBE NORTH WESTERN

The purchase of the Lacombe and North Western Railway by the Canadian Pacific Railway Company would surely mean greater possibilities, and a greater future for the line than had it remained a Provincial line, even though completed into Edmonton. Although the Canadian Pacific Railway Company had refused to state when the line would be completed into Edmonton, the fact that an extension of twenty miles would be built this year from the present end of steel to a point somewhere in the Telfordville district would bring great satisfaction to the people who have waited and hoped so many years for the building of this line.

The member prophesied a wonderful future for the Province, detailed its growth since 1901; touched on the visits of the Governor General, their Royal Highnesses the Prince of Wales and Prince George, Premier Baldwin and the Rt. Honorable L. C. M. S. Amery, stating that all had spoken in rapturous terms of the potentialities of the Provincial resources. "Do not let us be content to listen to eulogies on the wonderful future of our Province—let us get down to business and find out why her development is not more rapid, and having found the cause apply the remedy," he concluded.

SECOND ADDRESS

R. M. McCOOL, M.L.A.

McCOOL SECONDS THE ADDRESS

In seconding the motion, R. M. McCool, (U.F.A.), Cochrane, joined in the tribute paid to the late Mr. Pingle. "It is with deep regret and sincerest sympathy for the bereaved," he said, "that we look upon his vacant chair. He was a man of broad vision and energetic mind and while he was young in years, he had a thorough grasp of Provincial wide conditions." He also added his respects to the memory of Field Marshall Sir Douglas Haig.

Dealing with the outstanding achievements of the year, the member pointed out that 1927 had broken all previous records in the matter of grain production as well as the total Agricultural Production.

In the year 1926, Alberta had a total wheat yield of 113,120,000 bushels, whereas in 1927, the total wheat yield was 171,377,400 bushels. The total grain crop yield in 1926 was 181,157,905, while in 1927, it went over the 238,000,000 mark. The total value of the grain crop was likewise increased from $145,005,600.00 in 1926 to $222,000,000.00 in 1927.

The total value of all agricultural products increased from $264,000,000.00 in 1926 to $300,000,000.00 in 1927. This, together with the savings effected by reduction in freight rates was very gratifying, and while it might not immediately reflect to the individual, the Province in general would feel the benefit. Our young Empire in the North, known as the Peace River country, had contributed toward this success, with an estimated grain yield of 12,000,000; also the Sugar Beet industry of the Lethbridge Northern Irrigation Project in the South.

COLONIZATION OF LETHBRIDGE NORTHERN.

In this project an energetic campaign for colonization had been carried on during the year, with the result that 280 new families purchased land in this district last year and 230 of these produced a crop of 500,000 bushels. There was a total of 800 families now operating under this project and they had under cultivation 88,170 acres, which was an increase over 1926 of 21,000 acres. The estimated wheat production was 1,704,000 bushels, the total production of the district being 2,500,000 bushels, as compared with 1,528,000 in 1926.

The Sugar Beet Industry at Raymond had another very successful year and produced nearly ten million pounds of Sugar. 5,000 acres under cultivation, and each acre producing nearly $50.00 in actual revenue.

PROBLEMS OF TRANSPORTATION.

Transportation facilities were an outstanding problem in every country and especially new countries. Alberta was no exception to the rule. With a total of 255,000 square miles, and a population of 600,000, and a total revenue from all sources including subsidies, approximately twelve million dollars, it could be seen that transportation was a very perplexing problem, with this scant population scattered over the length and breadth of the Province. Notwithstanding all this, we were fairly well served in railroads by the C.P.R. and C.N.R. and our own Provincial Government.

Next to railroads was a main highway system which extended over 2,600 miles in this Province. Of this 2,600 miles, 500 was gravelled at the present time, 170 of which was completed in 1927. Also 900 miles of this was now completed with a standard grade ready for gravelling. There was also a secondary road system embracing practically 11,000 miles, with a large percentage already up to a standard grade.

"The question arises," said Mr. McCool, "can we spend any more money on this work, than what we are doing at present? The gasoline tax and the auto licenses are a direct tax for road purposes. In the last three years practically four million dollars has been collected from these sources. The expenditure during the same time, including roads, bridges, maintenance and interest on past capital expenditure, amounts to practically four million dollars; in other words, practically every dollar collected from these sources has been expended on same, and in addition the sum of $6,000,000.00 from capital account."

The main highway system was very important, as it was by this means we received our tourist visitors, and the tourist traffic was a valuable asset to any Province and must be looked after. However, it should not supercede to any great extent the secondary highway system, because after all it was the permanent resident who was actually developing the country and not the tourist.

"In this regard I appreciate the policy adopted by the Government to devote more attention to secondary roads in the future," said the member.

An interesting sidelight on the highway question was the fact that out of $3,265,000.00 expended this year on roads, $1,170,000.00 was absorbed by interest charges due on past capital borrowings for this purpose.

GROWTH OF ALBERTA'S INDUSTRIES.

The member reviewed the various industries of the Province showing the rapid growth of such ventures as fur and fisheries, ores, timber, coal, oil and water power. He trusted that the day was not distant when the Province would have control of its resources and thus be able to contribute materially to the advancement of development. As an indication of the potentialities of the re-

sources as a source of Provincial revenue he showed that the Dominion had received practically one million dollars in 1926. For coal and oil alone the revenue had been $430,692. The subsidies to the Province had amounted to $502,000. Thus it could be seen that apart from the cost of administration, which would be more effective in the hands of the Province, there was the prospect of substantial augmentation of the receipts of the Province.

With regard to the policing of the Province, Mr. McCool was rather afraid that the turning over of the duties to the Dominion would not be a practical step to take. Should it be decided to do so, there would have to be a guarantee of efficiency and the retention in the hands of the Province of jurisdiction in regard to Provincial laws. He preferred to have the Province assume the duties of the Dominion police within the boundaries of the Province.

The Telephone Department had had a very substantial increase in business and the increase in rates put into effect a year ago had no doubt materially assisted the financial condition of the Department. Thirteen hundred new telephones had been installed and every provision possible was being made to meet all requests especially from outlying districts.

With regard to education, all the colleges, secondary, Normal and technical schools were filled to the limit, which showed a marked interest in the desire for education. In 1926 75 per cent. of the schools were operated eight months or over, while last year the percentage had increased to 90.

Ten petitions asking for the incorporation of various institutions and the amendment of the city charters of the cities of Calgary, Lethbridge and Medicine Hat, started the grist of legislative action in the Assembly this afternoon.

One Year of Government Operation Makes Railways Saleable

Lacombe Northwestern Sold to C.P.R.—Joint Offer for E.D. & B.C. by C.N.R. and C.P.R.—Does not Necessarily Follow that Offer Will Be Accepted

EDMONTON, February 3.—Boy! Page Lord Beckmaster! It came as such a shock on the opening day of the Legislature to find that the Provincial railways had sprung in the course of one short year of Provincial control from being a veritable millstone round the Provincial neck into a really first class saleable proposition. Not only so, but one railway, the Lacombe and North Western, had already been disposed of, at least to the extent that only legislative confirmation is now necessary.

There will, of course, be some who deprecate the fact that the line went to the C.P.R., thus apparently passing forever from public to private ownership. On the other hand, only the more dogmatic partisan could insist that we ever had the opportunity in this line, to give public ownership a real trial. For the U.F.A. Government to take a battered and over-capitalized system, built with an abandon of reckless spending, out of the hands of private adventurers at a time when it had been practically looted clean and left like a certain man on the road to Jericho, wounded and despoiled, to pour in the oil and wine of good judgment and finally bring the refugee into the place where care and nourishment saved the fragments for the taxpayers of the Province, is certainly nothing to be ashamed of.

Saving $170,000 a Year

That, perhaps, is a rather homely illustration. There will in any event be some loss on the transaction. The past will have to be liquidated. The actual physical valuation, for instance, of the Lacombe and North Western, was placed by the Government at $2,100,000.00. The Government must have felt lucky to be able to dispose of it to the C.P.R. for $1,500,000.00 plus the outstanding issue of 5 per cent bonds, which amounted to $273,700.00. This was $326,300.00 less than the Government valuation. But even at that the sale means a saving to the Province in maintenance, operation and interest charges of $175,000 a year, which at least will plug up one of the leaks in the ship of state and help the crew materially to bring her into port.

Residents of the territory between the present terminus at Breton and Telford ville, will be gladdened to think that the Government's efforts will mean some twenty more miles of railway, as the purchasers agree to construct this within one year. The Government made a bold bid for the completion of the line to Edmonton, but were unsuccessful at least for the present.

The E.D. & B.C. Line

With regard to the Edmonton Dunvegan and British Columbia railway the case is somewhat different. No transaction has been completed here. But the Premier tabled correspondence in the Assembly which showed that the chief had not gone eastwards particularly for his health alone. Mr. McGillivray's idea, expressed last year, that the Government should make the one big Transcontinental Company bid against the other for possession of the road has been eclipsed by the unprecedented and to the layman unexpected receipt of a joint offer from the companies in place of a competitive bid.

That does not mean, however, that the offer will be accepted. This Government has operated the E.D. and B.C. for about a year now and the earning power of the road is no longer in the realm of potentialities. There is now no need for the appointment of any outside appraisers. The C.N.R. are submitting an offer with regard to the A. & G.W. Railway which is not yet in the hands of the Cabinet. When this is received and digested, the Premier will set a date when a complete statement will be presented to the Assembly. Expectation is on tiptoe.

The Joint Offer

I am forwarding the full text of the joint offer so that readers will be able to follow subsequent proceedings.

Canadian National Railways
Canadian Pacific Railway Company
Montreal, January 16th, 1928

The Honourable J. E. Brownlee,
Prime Minister,
Edmonton, Alta.

Dear Mr. Brownlee:

Referring to our conversations with you in Montreal relative to the proposed acquisition by the Canadian National and Canadian Railway Companies of the Edmonton, Dunvegan and British Columbia Railway (including the Pembina Branch) and the Central Canada Railway.

The Canadian National and Canadian Pacific Companies will jointly assume the payment of interest on the outstanding debenture stock of the Edmonton, Dunvegan and British Columbia Railway to the extent of Seven Million Dollars ($7,000,000) and on the outstanding bonds of that company to the extent of two million, four hundred and twenty thousand dollars ($2,420,000) and will undertake to pay off such debenture stock and bonds at maturity.

Our two companies will, as a further consideration of the purchase, undertake to pay to the Province of Alberta for the capital stock of the above mentioned railways and all of the properties and other assets of the companies, including the assets of the Central Canada Express Company, free of all claims and encumbrances except the debenture stock and bonds hereinbefore mentioned the sum of eight million ($8,000,000) payable in ten years with interest at four per cent per annum commencing July the 1st, 1929, as to one million dollars of the purchase price and each year thereafter on an additional million dollars. In the result, therefore, the purchasing companies will pay interest on one-eighth of the purchase price commencing July the 1st, 1929, and on an additional eighth during each of the subsequent years.

Exemption from Taxation

This offer is conditional upon an agreement being entered into by your Government that the properties to be acquired shall be exempt from Provincial taxation for ten years from the first of July next.

You have asked us to indicate what branch line extensions our companies would be prepared to construct. We are willing to agree that the line from Whitelaw to the Waterhole district, approximately fifteen miles, and from Wembley beyond Beaver Lodge, approximately twenty-five miles, will be constructed within two years from the date of acquisition of the railways, and that such further branch lines will be built from time to time as in the judgment of the purchasing companies the necessities of the country warrant.

As far as a Western outlet is concerned, we shall have to leave consideration of that project until such time as in our judgment the development of the district warrants its construction.

You have stated to us that there is some doubt as to the sufficiency of the Government's title to a portion of the right of way of the above-mentioned railways, and if this is substantial we will expect that the amount required to be spent to acquire title should be set off in reduction of the purchase price.

If this offer is acceptable in general terms to the Government, our solicitors and local officers will be instructed to confer with the department of railways in the preparation of the requisite agreements.

Yours very truly,

(Signed) E. W. THORNTON,

Chairman and President Canadian National Railways.

(Signed) E. W. BEATTY,

Chairman and President Canadian Pacific Railway Company.

News from Alberta Wheat Pool Head Office

Information for Members and Locals issued by the Department of Education and Publicity of the Alberta Wheat Pool.

Pool Adjustment With Vancouver

Wheat Pool Refuses to Pay for Sewer Extensions Made Necessary By Elevator

The Vancouver Sun—"If it had ever occurred to me that we would have been held up by a discussion over a sewer my attitude toward locating the Alberta Wheat Pool elevator in Vancouver would have been different," declared C. M. Hall, manager of the Wheat Pool elevators at a city hall conference, when following a good deal of plain speaking, an adjustment was made of the difficulties with the city regarding sewer outfalls affected by the $2,200,000 Wheat Pool elevator west of the Second Narrows bridge.

Ald. F. E. Woodside, who had been the most insistent council member in demanding that the Pool contribute toward the cost of the sewer extensions made necessary by the elevator, finally agreed to place before the city council this afternoon a recommendation embodying the original offer of the Wheat Pool.

This offer involves the granting of easements to the city so the city may build the sewer. The Wheat Pool refused to contribute toward the cost of the sewer.

Removes Obstacle

Ratification by the council will clear away the obstacle which Mr. Hall stated had been holding up the signing of the contract for erection of the elevator.

Mr. Hall pointed out that no inducements, such as tax exemption, had been offered the Wheat Pool in Vancouver. The Pool, however, had been assured co-operation.

"Candidly I don't consider it co-operation to bring us here and argue about a sewer," declared Mr. Hall.

Refusal of the city to grant the lease of Rupert street-end would mean the abandonment of plans for extension to the elevator's docking facilities, which would cost $500,000, he added.

"We have received wonderful treatment from the C.P.R.", said Mr. Hall. "The railway is putting up $2,500,000 for extensions to accommodate the new elevator and is not asking us to put up a cent."

Company's Terms

In the discussion concerning the sewer extensions, which, it was estimated, would cost from $80,000 to $200,000, according to the scheme adopted, Mr. Hall took the position that the Pool would enter upon no scheme involving expenditure on its part beyond granting the city easements at certain points and agreeing that the city should make any reservation for sewer facilities it desired at Rupert street end.

F. E. McD. Russell, K.C., harbor board chairman, also took a decided stand against any obstacle being put in the way of grain elevator development by the Wheat Pool. He said it was up to the city to build sewers to keep pace with development.

CARRYING POOL WHEAT

The British freighter "The Homer City" was the twelfth vessel to carry a cargo of wheat from the Pool elevator at Prince Rupert this season. The "Homer City" took a full cargo in three days—a record for the port.

A Visit to the Wheat Pool Head Office

Impressions Gained by Calgary Pool Members

The following letter, written by A. R. Elvidge, appeared in the *Canada Canadian*.

"Dear Sir:—When in Calgary recently I took the opportunity to see for myself how our wheat is handled through the agency of that great organization, the Alberta Wheat Pool.

"First, I want to say, 'When in Calgary see your Wheat Pool organization at work.'

"Someone will take you round those offices, and in a few moments you will see what a remarkable, intricate and powerful machine has been created by the co-operative efforts of Alberta farmers.

"The method of filing names and recording sales and payments is the last word in modern equipment and efficient control.

"Every department is a separate unit, yet the visitor can, in a few moments, obtain a complete record of any car load of wheat shipped by individual members at any of the 539 odd shipping points of Alberta.

Do You Realize?

"Do you farmers realize that this great machine for handling and selling your wheat is created to better the living conditions of all those who live and work on the farm?

"It is not created to pile up dividends for a few wealthy individuals controlling elevator interests.

"At a Wheat Pool meeting recently a farmer in the Clover Bar district got up and said: 'Gentlemen, I have grown wheat nearly 40 years, but this is the first chance I have had to share in the profits of selling that wheat.'

"When one thinks of the great profits made by the grain trade in the handling of wheat, it makes one wonder why the wheat producers did not wake up years ago.

"After seeing the results of our co-operative methods of selling wheat, it is not easy to understand the attitude of those who grow wheat, yet stand by and let the grain trade take a profit in selling that wheat.

"Probably they imagine they are smart enough to always hit the high mark when selling their wheat.

"If they would see, and understand the great salesmanship the Pool uses, it would make them realize how futile their gambling in wheat prices were.

"'Sign for Safety' is certainly the finest slogan we producers could use, and those who have the best welfare of our great farming industry at heart, will, if not already done, 'do it now'."

Farm Women Devoted to Wheat Pool

Have Been of Great Help to Organization

Radio address delivered by Walter B. Herbert, Friday evening, January 27th, 1928:

A visitor at the Wheat Pool office recently asked the question, "Why are the women-folk not interested in the Wheat Pool?"

Our reply was, of course, a vigorous denial of the implication contained in the question, and we pointed out to our visitor the fact that the loyalty and devotion of Alberta's farm women to the co-operative principle has contributed largely to the success of our organization.

It is true that women do not figure largely in any administrative capacity in the Canadian Wheat Pools, but we cannot deny (nor have we any wish to deny), that much credit is due to the unrecognized partner in the Wheat Pool for the influence and co-operation she has unselfishly favored us with.

Women Favor Pool

Fifty per cent. of our contracts contain the names of wives, as subscribing witnesses to the signature of growers. What is the obvious inference from this fact? It is simply this: that in most cases the farmer has discussed the subject of Wheat Pool membership with his wife, and, influenced by her judgment and advice, he has decided to throw in his lot with his neighbors, in an effort to place the marketing of his basic product on a sane and fair foundation.

It is the woman in the home who realizes most vividly the advantages to her family arising from an income distributed throughout the year. She has suffered, probably more than the head of the family, from the evils of the "gambling system" of placing wheat on the world's markets. An injudicious bargain by her husband when he sells his crop, and the adversity which results, strikes the housewife first. She is the one who has to sacrifice most in trying to stretch the dollar and devising ways of "doing without", before it occurs to other members of the family. Her home and children are her first concern, so her heart and soul are with any movement which will best enable her to provide for them the things which make for happiness and comfort and contentment. And so it is the women of Alberta have loyally supported the Wheat Pool movement.

Women's Direct Service

In addition to this indirect support which the women-folk have given us, they have also served well in a more direct way. We have many women canvassers working enthusiastically for us throughout the Province, signing-up new and renewal contracts. And, in this connection, we must hand it to the ladies for the excellence of their work. We find that, in all cases, contracts signed up by women canvassers are completed with the greatest care and neatness, and it is a genuine pleasure for head office to record their work. An interesting illustration of co-operation by women is to be found

in the fact that a canvasser's certificate has been taken out by the Munson Girls' Club. These young ladies have worked diligently and very successfully in our cause, and commissions paid on contracts sent in by them have been devoted to club funds, for carrying on local social work. We should also mention the fact that we have hundreds of women contract-signers on our membership list, and there has been only one instance of a woman-member being reported to head office for breach of contract. It is also interesting to note that in most cases where one of our members dies, his contract is taken over by his widow. We encourage this procedure by transferring membership into the widow's name without the payment of further membership fees.

Natural Co-operators

No; our visitor was wrong when he suggested that the women of Alberta are not interested in the Wheat Pool. They are. Women are more natural co-operators than men—their universal efforts to secure peace among the nations of the world is ample evidence of this statement—and we of the Wheat Pool fully appreciate the loyal assistance they have given to our movement. With a continuance of their support, our Wheat Pool will grow until it becomes the unchallenged co-operative marketer of all Alberta's wheat.

Many Visitors at Pool Office

Over 400 Members Called During January

Radio Talk by N. P. Davison, January 27th, 1928.

Since the coming of the New Year over four hundred of our members have visited our Head Office in the Lougheed Building, Calgary. Since the commencement of the crop year we have had over one thousand callers. These visitors are from every portion of the Province, and represent a fair average of our membership.

Previous to the Christmas holidays, a number of our members called in who were en route to the Old Country. Several of them expressed the thought that the Pool was largely responsible for their being able to make the trip. Of course all our members are not so complimentary; that would be impossible under the present grading system. The grading system, regarding which we have the great majority of our complaints, is not a component part of the Pool, but is covered by Government statute applicable to the sale of all wheat and other grains.

Seed Wheat Clause

On speaking to one of our members who visited the office this morning, we enquired as to the attitude towards the Pool of an exceptionally large scale farmer in his district. He advised us that this man was friendly to the Pool, but that the clause in the Growers' Agreement which refers to the sale of seed wheat would restrict him too much in his operations. This particular clause in the First Series Contract has been found to cause undue hardship on our members in many instances. In the Second Series Contract this clause has been changed to allow more freedom to our growers in selling wheat for seed purposes. Under the Second Series Contract the grower may, upon receiving a permit in writing from the Association, or by such other method as the Directors may determine, dispose of his wheat for seed. No difficulty, therefore, will be met with by any grower who has a local market for his wheat for seed purposes. Registered seed as heretofore is exempt from the terms of contract.

Value of Reserves

Another matter in which our visiting members show considerable interest, is our Reserve Ledger. This ledger shows each grower's deliveries year by year, also the amount deducted for commercial and elevator reserve purposes. Statements are sent out each year to the grower showing the amount standing to his credit in both of these reserves. We have had a number of enquiries as to the value of these credits, and many of our members appear to be of the opinion that the elevator reserve is a superior asset to the commercial reserve. With continued careful management and control, both these reserves should be on a parity so far as security is concerned, and will return to the grower one hundred cents on the dollar. While no interest is being paid on commercial reserve, we would point out that the main reason of this is that the amount subscribed by each individual grower is comparatively small, and to compute interest and make payment would entail too much clerical work for the amount involved. The actual amount deducted for commercial reserve is kept as low as possible still being consistent with the purposes for which this reserve was created. With regard to the repayment of these funds to the grower, it is anticipated that a form of revolving fund will be worked out just as soon as we have taken care of the demands of our Pool members for additional elevator facilities at the more important shipping points in the Province, whereby deductions from deliveries to future pools will be used to repay those who contributed to the reserve in the first year of the Pool's operation. When this becomes operative however, rests at the discretion of your Board of Directors.

We would extend to our members who may be in Calgary at any time a hearty invitation to visit head office.

FINAL CROP ESTIMATE

The final estimate of the Canadian Government places the 1927 wheat crop in Canada at 440,025,000 bushels, a reduction of about four million bushels from the November estimate, but about thirty million bushels over the 1926 production.

WHY NOT MAKE IT TEN?

The following letter has been received from Charles Maul of Excel, Alberta: "Find enclosed contract signed for another five years; why not make them for ten? I am receiving considerable light from the Grain Trade propaganda, especially when I light my fire with same. Also find enclosed delivery checking coupons for 2379½ bushels; will send in balance as soon as possible."

IMPORTS OF WHEAT INTO U.S.A.

Imports of wheat into bonded mills for grinding into flour for export amounted to 390,000 bushels during the week ended Jan. 14th. For the period from July 1st to January 14th, these imports have amounted to 8,985,000 bushels as compared with 18,113,000 bushels for a similar period last year.

No wheat was imported for consumption during the week ended January 14th. For the period from July 1st to January 14th, such imports upon which duty is paid have been 5,000 bushels against 4,000 bushels for the same period a year ago.—Department of Commerce, Washington.

A CONTRAST

Eugene Shepler of the Rosedale district recently returned from a trip through the Palouse district of Idaho. Mr. Shepler was born and raised in that state, but has spent the last seventeen years in Alberta. During his recent visit he was rather surprised to find the farmers of that part of Idaho considerably behind the Alberta farmers in many ways, but chiefly in the matter of organization. Submissive under the customs and restrictions built up by special interests for many years, these farmers are making very little progress towards the betterment of their conditions. Mr. Shepler stated that Alberta farmers through their organized efforts to improve farm conditions, are away ahead of the farmers of the United States. No attempt is being made in that part of Idaho to get better prices or overcome marketing difficulties by organization. Taxes are very heavy and agriculture is suffering under a grievous burden.

News & Views

F. C. Rogers of Bindloss, Alberta, writes: "I find the deferred payments made by the Wheat Pool tends to more careful managing of my crop income, and prevents me from buying the things I can get along without."

The new series contracts are coming into the head office of the Alberta Wheat Pool at a rate of between 40 and 50 daily. Herewith we give a few recent signers: Chas. Brewster, Macleod, 500 acres; A. W. Miller, Rockyford, 420 acres; H. R. Turner, Seymour, 830; S. Floyd Wilde, Raymond, 300; Noah Graybill, Diamond City, 300; John Ross Kennedy, Brant, 340; Bert Weber, Blackie, 600; Alex. Ross, Morin, 300; John Jos. Vance, Fort Saskatchewan, 300 acres.

PRIVILEGE MUST NOT BE ABUSED

In certain instances the Wheat Pool has been giving to farmers with low grade wheat, permits to sell this feed wheat with the express stipulation that the wheat was not to be sold to any grain or elevator company, or to any one for the purpose of being re-sold. The idea behind this is that if a farmer can sell his feed wheat advantageously to a neighbor, the Pool does not want to stand in his way. It has come to the attention of the Head office that some members have been abusing this privilege, and have been encouraged in so doing by representatives of certain grain interests. The Directors of the Alberta Wheat Pool are insistent that this privilege extended to members should not be abused and want it clearly understood that the conditions under which the permit is issued must be lived up to.

Annual Convention Deals With Many Issues In Federal and Provincial Field---Urges Federal Responsibility for Old Age Pensions

Convention Asks Extension of Time for Payment of Income Tax Returns this Season---Wants Stricter Enforcement of Dominion Elections Act---Urges Resumption of Diplomatic Relations with Russia

At the opening of Tuesday evening's session of the Convention, Rev. R. W. Avison, pastor of the church, expressed his pleasure in welcoming the farmers' Convention again, and in a brief address drew a comparison between the problems of the church and those of the nation. Just as the church was not an end in itself, so the nation that gave us birth was not an end in itself. Religion was greater than the church and internationalism was greater than nationalism. In the past, said Mr. Avison, "we have been so anti-national in our religion, and so individualistic that we have not paid attention to the social implications of religion. We shall continue to mark time only—to make no progress—until we have a religion which is greater than the church and nation."

FRATERNAL GREETING FROM SASKATCHEWAN

Following Premier Brownlee's address which is printed elsewhere, Mr. Williams, fraternal delegate from the United Farmers of Canada, Saskatchewan Section, was introduced. He brought greetings from his organization and addressed the Convention at some length.

In opening he called attention to one of the advantages which the U.F.A. enjoyed as compared with the organization in Saskatchewan. Whereas the Saskatchewan farmers had to pay money to send delegations to Ottawa to express their views to the Government and to press for legislation of advantage to the farmers, "you in Alberta have reached the stage where your electors spend your money to send your delegates to Ottawa"—the U.F.A. members of the House of Commons.

Recalling the history of the farmers' movement in Saskatchewan, Mr. Williams said that when the farmers in control of the farmers' organizations there refused to move some years ago, the one gleam of hope came from Alberta. The Saskatchewan farmers' educational association, unlike that of Alberta, refused to move and it was necessary to form a counter organization before the de and for a co-operative marketing system could be advanced in an effective manner. When the Wheat Pool was formed, it was found that unless the two Saskatchewan educational organizations joined forces the ground won could not be held, and finally amalgamation had taken place, the good qualities of both organizations being retained.

Mr Williams said the Saskatchewan organization had attained a membership of 20,000, and an income from membership fees alone of $124,000 (the fee corresponding to the $3 membership fee in the U.F.A. is $6 in Saskatchewan). After referring to the acquirement of Pool elevators in Saskatchewan, and the formation, following the example of Alberta, of the Saskatchewan Livestock Pool, Mr. Williams said that the organization was on the eve of starting a co-operative wholesale society. The one they had now was not truly co-operative.

The next great advance, he believed would be in the direction of co-operative purchasing of the commodities the farmers needed. A study had also been made of co-operative insurance, and a plan to get life insurance for members through the Wheat Pool. Application had been made against the tariff on sugar. The organization had also established a legal library at a cost of over $1000, the whole of which would be covered out of the membership fee.

When the farmers spoke of co-operation, said Mr. Williams, they meant not just the Wheat Pool or the Livestock Pool or any one single enterprise, but the substitution of a co-operative for the present competitive form of society in all its phases.

Mr. Williams went on to say that no farmers' organization was one whit stronger than the individual membership. The only way in which a farmers' organization could be brought to benefit the farmers was by the farmers themselves making use of it.

In the past, said the fraternal delegate, the commercial organizations had controlled the educational, and the U.F. of C. Saskatchewan section wished to avoid this in future by footing the bill for all its own expenses. That there might be differences between the organizations in various Provinces was not so much to be deplored as would be any inability to give each other advice and assistance.

PROUD OF ALBERTA'S POLITICAL ACHIEVEMENT.

"The Saskatchewan farmers are proud of what you have done in Alberta in group political action," said Mr. Williams, "and every one wants to see your experiment go through. We are glad that you did not go into political action as we did. We tried to build political action from the top down."

Alberta farmers, however, Mr. Williams thought, would not now wish the executive body of the Saskatchewan organization to force the membership to adopt the U.F.A. plan of political action. Any demand must first come from the membership. "Group political action will never live on manufactured opinion."

The delegate said that if affiliation should take place between the Saskatchewan and Alberta organizations, this would not mean amalgamation, and autonomy in regard to political action should be retained. In conclusion he remarked that he had been surprised when at the close of Premier Brownlee's address it was intimated that the Premier would be willing to answer questions. In Saskatchewan the farmers were not accustomed to that sort of thing. The party politicians did not venture to ask for questions.

> The comprehensive report of proceedings at the Annual Convention, commenced in our last issue, is continued below. Reports on the discussion of the grain resolutions, of the banking and credit committee's report and of resolutions on educational subjects, as well as on much routine business, are held over until our next issue.

WEDNESDAY'S SITTING

A resolution asking that all persons applying for positions as grain buyers be required to pass an examination in grading of grain before being qualified to act as elevator agent, was moved at the opening of Wednesday morning's sitting, immediately after Mr. Gardiner had taken the chair. The resolution was tabled after a brief discussion. Mr. Bone of High Prairie spoke in support of the resolution in behalf of Pembina Provincial U.F.A. Upon being asked for his opinion, President Wood said that he did not think the proposal practicable. In the course of the discussion, J. M. Whestley of Chancellor remarked that there was only one man in his district engaged in handling grain who knew his business well—and that was the Pool elevator man.

The Convention rejected a resolution asking the U.F.A. Board to draw up a contract under which the farmers could Pool their security, farmers to sign with the understanding that the contract "would only become effective when so many millions of dollars' worth of security had been procured." C. East supported the resolution as a temporary expedient to enable those already heavily in debt to carry on. Other measures would be needed for the future.

Mr. Rafn said a similar plan had been working in the land of his birth, Denmark, for 50 years, and worked well, but the conditions differed greatly from ours. All the people in a given district knew each other and had known each other for a long time. "Here," said Mr. Rafn, "we are all thinking of the almighty dollar and don't care how we get it and that makes the difference."

C. C. Reed believed that the solution of the financial problems lay in placing the control of financial institutions in the hands of men of national outlook. One essential was the creation of a nations' bank.

By a large majority the Convention adopted a resolution urging the Railway Commission to inquire into the alleged failure of the railway passenger traffic and hotels to become self-sustaining, and into the alleged making up of losses in this direction by excessive charges on freight shipped by the primary producers. The Commission was asked, if these allegations were found to be correct, to direct that the railway management make the passenger and hotel services self-sustaining.

THE DISCUSSION OF OLD AGE PENSIONS.

Two resolutions on Old Age Pensions were considered on Wednesday morning. The first of these was from Lac Ste Anne, and was critical of the present old age pensions scheme on the ground that the whole responsibility should be borne by

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time and time again that we believe in Canadian autonomy," he went on, "Our Premier has declared that. Yet just as soon as a good opportunity comes to carry out autonomy, he falls head over heels to follow the action of the British Government." British Governments, like other party Governments, were sometimes governed in what they did by party expediency, and this seemed to have been the deciding factor in this instance. The Government of Canada owed it to the people to give reasons for the action they had taken.

"There is too much secrecy about this business altogether," concluded Mr. Young. I don't think there is any danger of war with Russia. Russia could not attack us if they wanted to. There has been all kinds of rubbish printed about Russia. I don't stand here as a Red. I am not associated with any Communist organization or anything of that kind but I have been absolutely disgusted in reading the wild stuff which has been printed in the press about Russia." He recalled silly stories that had proved to be sheer inventions.

Mr. Bower, of Gleichen, briefly expressed his views on the resolution, stating that the convention was working in the dark, since no reasons for the breach had been given.

A delegate from Cadsby Lake, who said he had recently returned from the Old country, declared that he was there when the election of 1924 took place and that the present Government assumed power on the strength of a document which had been proved to be a forgery. It would be unwise to be guided in Canada by the action of the present British Government in this matter.

"We are children of the Mother Country," declared Mr. McCready. "I always tried to follow my mother's example and do what she told me. Now the Mother Country has told us to watch our step and I am willing to be told."

Opening with the remark that he was himself an old countryman, but not inclined to flag waving, Mr. Porter, of Conrich Local said he could not allow the last statement to pass. He did not think there was any danger of the old countryman being stampeded. Every Englishman knew that Governments in the Old Country had done many things wrong." No reason had been given for the breach by the Canadian Government, which was content to leave the people in the dark.

COL. ROBINSON EXPRESSES VIEWS

Col. Robinson remarked that the discussion was being carried on on a higher plane than on the first day. As to Canadian autonomy, its usual meaning was that "we are allowed to use our best judgment." In this case, Col. Robinson believed, judgment had been used by the people who had taken action. The question was one of discipline and of law and order, and if there was one thing he was thankful for it was that he was prepared to take orders from his superior officer. Mr. King was no doubt a good Canadian, as were his cabinet, and he was willing to accept their judgment. The Colonel doubted whether those present were informed about Russia, and he himself was not. He thought that if there were any people who wanted to sell horses, the horse breeders' association was the body to take action. "Let us instruct our Federal members to inquire why the Government broke off relations with Russia," Col. Robinson concluded.

CANADIAN OF TWO GENERATIONS

C. East said that nothing had given him greater pleasure than to be able to stand up and support this resolution. He thought the matter was one of principle entirely, and regretted the reference to horses. There had been nothing of this sort in the Battle River resolution. "I am a good Canadian of two generations, and I am opposed to breaking relations with Russia, and I deny the right of any man to charge me with lack of patriotism. It is such things as this that lead to war. Don't let us trust the men at the top merely because they are at the top."

Mr. Rafferty and C. Axelson spoke in support of the resolution. Mr. Rafferty said that the Russian Government, which had lasted ten years, was the most stable in Europe. Mr. Axelson remarked that representatives of the Russian agricultural co-operatives had met the representatives of the Canadian and other Wheat Pools at the International Wheat Pool conference, and expressed a desire to co-operate with the Pools. He remarked that Pool officials had been favorably impressed. C. C. Reed, supporting the resolution, said that it involved no endorsement of the Russian Government, but merely expressed a desire that we should have the same diplomatic relations with Russia as with other countries.

SPENCER ON BRITISH OPINION

H. E. Spencer, M.P., secretary of the U.F.A. group at Ottawa, stated that he had happened to be in London when the debate on the Russian situation came up. "And I can assure you," he said, "that opinion was divided, and far from being unanimous. We should look at this subject calmly, as any other subject."

Mr. Spencer said he would make it his business to try to find out what reasons actuated the Ottawa Government in breaking relations. "I might say," he added, "that several times I had the opportunity of meeting the Russian trade delegation in Ottawa. They were about as fine a little body of men as I have met in Canada. A curious thing I noticed was that whereas Canada had recognized Russia for years, Canadian finance was very chary about its dealings, but on the other hand, while the United States Government had never recognized Russia, U.S. financiers had been financing them. The Russians found that in Canada they even had to go to the States to be financed, and the United States bankers said, 'Well, if we are going to finance you, you must do a certain amount of business with us'."

SLIGHT AMENDMENT REMOVES REFERENCE TO HORSES

Norman Priestley, of Coaldale, then moved to delete the reference to the horse industry from the resolution. "If," he said, "the Convention confines itself to an expression of its desire to be unhampered in its dealings with that country, we shall be getting down to real things." The resolution as amended carried by an overwhelmingly large majority. It read as follows:

Whereas, Canada's right to autonomy in her foreign relationships was recognized at the last Imperial Conference and,

Whereas, the maintenance of normal relationships between Canada and foreign countries is desirable and advantageous to ourselves, and

Whereas, Premier King is reported as having stated that he could find no fault with anything the representatives of the Russian Soviet Government either said or did in Canada, and

Whereas, trade relationships with Russia have proved of great benefit to this country

Therefore, be it resolved, that this Convention urge the Dominion Government to open negotiations with a view to the immediate resumption of diplomatic and trade relationships with Russia.

ST. LAWRENCE WATERWAYS PROJECT

After the resolutions dealing with the handling of grain had been disposed of on Thursday morning, a resolution from the Bow Valley to Munson District Association recommending the development of the St. Lawrence project as an international undertaking "providing the Government can make the necessary financial arrangements and have an available market for not less than 60 per cent of Canada's share of the power," was discussed at some length. The resolution set forth that an International commission appointed in 1919 had reported and that its recommendations had been accepted by the United States Government; that Canada and the U.S. had always co-operated amicably in the use of all navigable waters, and that Canada had already spent nearly 235 millions on canals between the Soo and Montreal.

Declaring that it would be unwise to commit the Convention to the expenditure of an immense sum of money on this project until the members were better informed, C. H. McFarquhar was supported by Gus Roose and by H. McKenzie who said it would be wise for the farmers of Alberta to concentrate on the power and similar problems already on their hands and the finding of an outlet for Peace River, while C. C. Reed was opposed to Canada "signing away our part of the rights" in the St. Lawrence waterways without very full consideration.

John Egger: "Would the Federal members explain what this project means?"

GARLAND SEES NO REASON FOR HASTE

E. J. Garland M.P., said that although he had a mass of material which he had been endeavoring to study, he did not feel that he had sufficient information to afford the Convention any guidance for the time being. He had been sufficiently engrossed in other problems of immediate concern to the people whom he served. If the power of the St. Lawrence was allowed to go, it was doubtful whether it would be possible for Canada to get control again without going to war about it. There seemed no reason for hurry. The Ottawa River could supply Ontario and Quebec with all the power they needed for some time to come.

C. Axelson moved that on account of lack of information, the resolution be tabled. This was carried.

(To be concluded)

MEETINGS IN WAINWRIGHT

Meetings will be addressed in the Wainwright Provincial Constituency, by A. F. Aitken, U.F.A. Director for Battle River, as follows, according to a letter received from Charles E. Miller, of Chauvin:

Ortindale, Monday, February 27 at 8 p.m.; Rosebery, Tuesday, February 28th at 8 p.m.; Irma, Wednesday, February 29th, 8 p.m.; Jarrow, Thursday, March 1st, at 8 p.m.; Killarney, Friday, March 2nd at 8 p.m.; Green Glade, Saturday, March 3rd, at 8 p.m.

From Green Glade Mr. Aitken goes into the Ribstone constituency.

"Our Educational Machinery Largely Outworn," Reports Educational Committee of the U.F.A. in Report to Convention

Committee Expresses Hope That Schools Will Not Be Negative to New Ideas—"We Can't Teach Competition and Expect the Fruits of Co-operation as Its Product."

The following report of the U.F.A. Educational Committee was presented to the Annual Convention by Mrs. R. B. Gunn.

Your committee on education beg to submit the following report, continuing along the lines of the verbal interim report given last July.

In that report your committee presented at some length the new needs of education to fill the demands of a new age, and indicated briefly that interesting experiments were being made in many countries to take care of these conditions. In this report, therefore, your committee wish to put into writing a synopsis of changing conditions, and to present insofar as it is possible in a brief report, from as wide a range of reading as possible, general information as to the nature and extent of educational innovations, a bird's eye view of world-wide educational trends.

Changed conditions were given under three heads: First that our present system originated in early pioneer days, when the school played merely a supplementary part, providing the tools of learning, the technique of reading, writing and arithmetic. And in their home life, children found all the essentials that made for sturdy, virile, independent growth and activity. Here were the physical forces that made their world, and the industries that supported and sustained them. In this atmosphere of family work and play, the boys and girls had ample opportunity to develop the initiative, the courage, the self-reliance, the creative endeavor, the independent thought and action that moulded them into men and women fitted to play a worthy part in the vigorous virile life of the day.

Changed Home Conditions

Today home conditions have completely changed. Even the farm has become a factory dealing with specialized activity,—the production of raw materials. No more do children even of the farm, spin and weave and meet the challenge of life in the field, the workshop, or the home. Growing out of this change has come another equally important. One writer has summed it up as follows:

"Quite suddenly we stepped into an age of scientific and mechanical invention. An age of railroads and steamboats and aeroplanes, of electricity and automobiles and skyscrapers, of quick communication by telephone and telegraph, and radio. Above all this we have developed a complicated superstructure of business, of new political, and economic and social needs. We have outgrown our schools."

And the third point is the failure to keep pace with developing democratic citizenship. On this point we wish to quote from an eminent educationist: "Freedom in its essence is self-government. In a world of democracies no progress towards greater freedom and higher civilization is possible unless the capacity for intelligent self-government is continually advancing. This fact has a pronounced application to our schools. We have only to realize that a child unable to govern himself can never become an effective citizen in a self-governing community to realize its force. And our educational problem is tremendously complicated by the fact that we are still teaching children, by and large, not by methods that develop control, and responsibility, and independence, but by methods that rely on teacher control, and teacher discipline, and teacher responsibility. In other words by methods that tend to break down rather than build up the capacity for self-government."

Mental Tour of Inspection

Your committee, therefore, wish to take you on a mental tour of inspection to new schools in various parts of the world, that do meet these new needs and develop these capacities in school boys and girls. You will see much that is interesting, much to challenge attention. You will find a profound ideal of greater freedom, more joyous endeavor, increased independence and naturalness, bright, interested, resourceful children.

Each of these experiments might well engage the time of a full address. But in so brief a report we will endeavor to include only a few of the salient features.

The Dalton Plan

For example, the well-known and now generally recognized schools on the Dalton plan. You will find Mrs. Parlby's address to the U.F.W.A. Convention of 1925, a comprehensive statement of this type of school work. This plan was originated by Miss Parkhurst of the United States, but rather curiously the first country to take it up vigorously was Great Britain. And now there are thousands of schools in Great Britain operating under this plan, as well as an increasing number of more recent growth in the United States. It may be interesting to know that in one of Edmonton's city schools this year, grade 8 is carrying out the Dalton plan of work, and we believe it is the intention, if the experiment proves successful, to apply it next year throughout the entire school. Its main features are a reorganization of school machinery, so that each child proceeds at a pace suited to his mental capacity, instead of children being shoved in droves and herds from one grade to the next. So the quick child travels swiftly and retains interest in his work, while the slower boy goes at a suitable gait without being classed as a dullard. Under the Dalton plan the school year is divided up into contract jobs or assignments. These are outlines of work for each grade for a month. The assignments are posted up and each child knows his work for the month in each subject, and is free to arrange his time as he wishes. From 8:45 to 12 the time is entirely at the disposal of the pupil, he may study any subject he wishes. He may study it for as long or as short a time as he feels inclined to. When his interest fades in one subject he may turn to another. The afternoon is made up of group conferences between pupils and teacher, art work, manual training, recreation, athletics and physical training. The tremendous spread of this system is sufficient guarantee of its superiority.

Let us travel on to another school made famous by H. G. Wells, in his "Swandecon of Oundle." By the way, this was the school out of all England that Wells chose for the education of his sons.

Horizontal and Vertical Ability

Educationists speak of two kinds of ability, horizontal ability and vertical ability. By horizontal ability they mean a pupil who can learn readily by rote, who can recite memorized passages glibly, but who is unable to apply what he has learned. We all know many products of High School and Universities who have this kind of ability.

By vertical ability they mean the child who can do, who can use his knowledge, and apply it, and reconstruct it, and out of it create new forms and new designs.

This school requires that each child shall have a certain amount of vertical ability. Everyone must spend one week out of every ten in its well equipped shops and laboratories. The verdict of this school was: "In finding something that each boy can do well, that he can find joy in, and gain confidence from, lies Saunderson's greatest single contribution."

Your committee wish to emphasize that in permitting freedom of choice and freedom of development, it is not to make work easy, not to provide a Heaven for the lazy child, but the great thing is to secure "that driving force that can accomplish the most difficult undertakings," if inspired by an inner urge, on the part of the pupils.

Life and Learning Together

Let us travel on to Bedales. This has been termed, "an old new school that is still young." Here is a residential school for boys and girls from 7 to 17 years of age. It combines sane healthful living and the best of the Dalton plan. In this school, life and learning are carried on together. Here the Dalton plan of school work is used and the Saunderson methods of shop and field. "Splendid balance between physical and mental work, adaptation of the academic work to fit the needs of the individual and the beautiful surroundings make it an almost ideal school," concludes the report on this plan.

For a change let us look in on Jessie MacKinder's Infant school, where mere babies teach themselves to read and write and develop numerical understanding on the most approved Montessori lines. The original feature of this school is the amazing number of devices Miss MacKinder has developed, so that each child has work to fit his individual capacity.

Stimulation Instead of Coercion

One of the most radical changes in school organization is that of O'Neill at Kearsley. This is a dull drab factory section, whose children have little of

beauty or happiness, or opportunity. Stearns writing of this school says: "O'Neill believes in stimulation rather than coercion. He believes in surrounding a child with beauty and giving him freedom to respond to it." Freedom is the essence of this school. There is no fixed curriculum, no fixed program, no fixed anything. And while children are slightly behind others in academic learning they gain immensely in naturalness, in spontaneity, in creative ability, in independence and self-reliance. Continuing, Stearns said, "One comes away stimulated, thoughtful and filled with respect for this little group of people who have had the courage of their convictions, and have dared to overthrow all traditions in their efforts to give the children of this ugly little mill town a touch of freedom, a glimpse of beauty, a chance to create, a breath of real independence."

"That any one can depart so widely from our accepted educational idea; our idea of what a school should be, and still achieve such fine results, in itself compels reflection."

In Belgium we find similar experiments. Decroly, with his emphasis on group activity, teaching children to co-operate that they may play a part smoothly and effectively in the complex life of our civilization.

Similar schools in Holland trying to secure a broad basis of understanding, of sympathy, with the achievements and contributions of every nation—spreading international goodwill.

France and Co-operative Learning

France has many schools emphasizing mainly co-operative learning and group activity. The children are free to do the work they like best. They choose their subjects, and work in groups, each being free to choose his own group. The teacher is there for reference and to correct the work submitted. And yet the fact that makes this whole experiment so remarkable—and we wish to call your attention to it particularly—is that the work is done under routine examination requirements as strict as any we have to comply with.

Summing up these schools in France, may we quote again: "It is enough to make any follower of traditional teaching methods stop and think. For if Cousinet (Cousinet is the school inspector under whose supervision the work is carried out) —if Cousinet is able to secure for his children the necessary grounding in prescribed subjects for which the more formal systems of training have been devised, and at the same time develop more of initiative, of self-reliance, and of co-operation than the more formal systems develop—then certainly Cousinet's methods are superior.

"Whatever the limitations of Cousinet's learning by doing method may be, it is undoubtedly a part of the broad general movement to study children's interests, to make school work active rather than passive, to develop each child along his own lines, yet socially and to give children more freedom."

And so we might travel on to Switzerland, to Czecho-Slovakia, to the well known Danish schools, to the United States, to Japan last but not least to catch the dawn of a new spirit in education. In all to some forty countries of the world.

Too Rigid—Too Much Routine

Coming back to our schools, to summarize briefly: We believe our schools are too rigid, with too much routine. The bright student is the one who can memorize easily, and recite glibly, and thus win high marks on examinations. We recognize horizontal ability, and the rare child with pronounced vertical ability too often is classed as rather dull at school, and then when he meets life's problems, not because of the school, but in spite of it, he flashes out into brilliancy of design, and invention and execution. Our schools should emphasize training, not for examinations, but training for life.

And to do this the school must recognize and take into account the child's natural interests and environment. We believe the great cultural content of agriculture should find a larger place in our schools.

All over the world a spirit of freedom is finding a place in the school, a spirit conducive to self-reliance, initiative, independence, self-government, the pivotal points on which democracies turn for progress or retrogression. These surely, to greater degree, we need in our schools. We need a spirit of active searching rather than passive receiving.

Outworn Machinery

Now, our hope is that men and women will realize that our machinery has in many respects outworn its usefulness, that they will consider the matter carefully and present thoughtful alterations to the Government; and if or when new proposals are placed before them, not to say, simply because a thing is new—"we won't have it, it wasn't done that way when we went to school." That nine chances out of ten will be all in its favor.

But question clearly, definitely and decisively, whether or not such changes will mean a new spirit, a new attitude—the application of the principle of co-operation. Alberta is being recognized the world over as the birth place in the new world of the co-operative spirit. If it is to strike its roots deep in the soil, the boys and girls of today must be permeated with its spirit. We can't worship at two shrines. We can't teach competition and expect the fruits of co-operation to appear as its product.

In the final analysis education is a thing of the spirit, an attitude, an ideal, in tune with the whimsical definition of the Scottish Master of Balliol: "Education is what remains over after you have forgotten all that you have ever learned."

Respectfully submitted,
Education Committee.

FLYING AND FOREST PROTECTION

The growing importance of the part being played by aviation in forest protection against fire in Canada is shown by the large part of the total flying time devoted to forest patrols. In 1926 the total flying time of Royal Canadian Air Force craft devoted to civil operations was 2,278 hours, of which 1,132 hours were required for the work of the Forest Service, Department of the Interior.

PROBLEMS WILL SOLVE THEMSELVES

(Continued from page 2)

place much nearer home. Since he has been in England, Mr. Greenfield has received very substantial offers from British companies and industries to take over work for them which would give him a larger annual return than he is receiving from the Alberta Government. I have seen these offers and talked with the representatives of the companies concerned."

As a result in part of the preaching of a new doctrine by men like Sir Alfred Mond and others—the bringing of the component parts of the British Empire into some great economic whole, one part contributing what another lacked—the British investing public were turning to Canada as they had not previously been turned since the war, and were prepared to take part in the development of the natural resources of Canada in an extensive way. The great industrial expansion in the United States was causing alarm, and as against this was the idea of forming some sort of combine to offset its growing power. In view of the changing attitude of Britain towards Canada, it was felt that if there ever was a time when Alberta with its resources, which were not entirely agricultural, should be brought before them, it was now. That was the reason for the agency. It had played its part in examining boys for the school at Vermilion, in examining immigrants to this country, and in interesting capital in tar sands and other resources. All of the States in the Australian Commonwealth, and British Columbia, Nova Scotia, Ontario and Quebec had such offices.

Policing of Province

The Premier went on to refer to the proposals which had been made by the Dominion in respect to the policing of the Province. At present the whole of that tremendous burden was on the Province. The force consisted of from 150 to 160 men, from the southern to the most northerly part of the Province. The Dominion had offered to take the responsibility over. From the standpoint of money only there would probably be a considerable saving. The question was whether it was good business to give up the control of a force responsible for the maintenance of law and order and liquor control. We had been very fortunate in Alberta in the enforcement of the Liquor Control Act.

Briefly referring to the railway problem, Mr. Brownlee said that the Province's investment was the staggering sum of over thirty million dollars. For years the lines had not been earning operating expenses, and interest had been piling up at an alarming rate, until the debt totalled some forty-six million dollars. Interest on the railway debt alone was three quarters of a million yearly. The taking over of the ownership and operation of the E. D. & B.C. by the Government marked a turning point in the development of railway transportation, for ever since a year ago the companies had shown themselves more interested in the question. The Premier then referred to the fact that offers from the companies were anticipated. These offers have since been received, and are referred to in the Legislative reports in this issue.

Peace River Problems

Speaking of the desire of the people of the Peace River country to be brought closer to the ocean ports, Mr. Brownlee said that no one would urge that it was the function of the Provincial Government to build another transcontinental railway. By operating a short line we received only a fraction of the total transportation cost.

"The freight rate from points in the Peace River to Edmonton is 5 cents a bushel, whereas the Transcontinental line for its share receives the large sum of 18 cents a bushel. On the 5 cents a bushel it is more difficult for us to make a profit, regardless of the development of traffic. We will be able to show at this session a much more satisfactory condition of affairs, however, as regards the E.D. & B.C.

"I am going to close by just touching on one other question. It arises from the

Dominion-Provincial Conference. I have felt it my duty to bring it to the attention of the people of this Province because I do not think the position of the Province is properly understood. You have seen much discussion on the demand for better returns for the Province from the Dominion. I believe that it is necessary that there should be co-ordinated opinion in the Province on this question. It came before the Conference because the people of the Maritime Provinces by concerted action have come together on this one demand, that the terms of Confederation have not been fair, and that there should be a re-adjustment. The Duncan commission was appointed by the Dominion Government, and brought in a report which was placed before the Dominion Parliament last year, and acted upon to some extent. It has since been acted upon to the extent of the recommendation of the commission, as to increased temporary grants. At the Dominion-Provincial Conference we took the position that we were not going to quarrel with the Maritime Provinces. We believe that they have need for the assistance for which they are asking; I am not sure that they need it on the grounds on which they claim it.

"B.C. has made a demand for better terms for the return of certain lands. A commission has been appointed, and will no doubt report for the opening of the House, because the people of B.C. have stood fairly well together in demanding better terms from the Dominion.

Stumbling Block at Confederation

"I think that it is fair to say that at the time of Confederation, when the fathers of Confederation were trying to arrange the terms of Confederation, the greatest stumbling block was the financial terms. They realized that if the Provinces went into Confederation they would have to give up the customs and excise to the Dominion, and the question was, what would they receive in return? There was an agreement made by which the central Government was to be given control of customs while the Provinces were to receive certain subsidies which were paid for many years. In 1907 the Provinces met together, and they said that times had greatly changed since Confederation, and that subsidies did not allow for the proper extension of Provincial administration. And I am going to read to you part of the speeches that were made in the Dominion House:

Sir Wilfred Laurier (Hansard, 1907, Page 8296.)

"It was not to be wondered at when the Provinces agreed to surrender to the centre government the exclusive power of taxation by way of customs and excise, they should at the same time have stipulated as a condition precedent that a certain portion of the revenue thus collected should be returned to them, and a portion sufficient to permit them without having recourse to direct taxation to carry on Provincial affairs.

Sir George Foster, (Hansard, 1907, page 8296.)

"Unless compromise had been resorted to, so as to relieve them from the necessities of immediate or even approximate taxation, we would be using a string of discontent Provinces.

Sir, Pudding, (Hansard, 1907, page [illegible].)

"The Provinces existed before Confederation, and they determined that they would not accept the terms of direct taxation. Had the Provinces been told at the time that although they were not to be obliged at once to enter upon a system of direct taxation, they must expect to look forward to it at an early date, I think that most of them would have objected. It is not reasonable to suppose that the Provinces entered Confederation with the expectation that they should be called upon to resort to direct taxation in a general form for the purpose of maintaining their Provincial Governments and Legislatures.

"These statements were made in 1907. At the time of Confederation the subsidies to the Province were 24 per cent of the total receipts from customs and excise. In 1926 they amounted to only 6 per cent.

"The Dominion Government has certain important duties to perform, but in times of stress they can cut down expenses without affecting individuals so much. Various cuts can be made without affecting you in your daily life, but if the Province, in the same time of stress, says, 'we must economize, and therefore we are going to cut down on the Educational expenses, and schools will not be able to open,' this comes right home to every man and woman that has a family in this Province. 'The public health vote can not be kept up, the insane must run at large,' or we may say that we cannot expend the money that we have expended in the past for our public roads. And if we do these things we have hit at the economic well-being of every man and woman that is carrying on business in this Province, in the rural districts or in the city. The terms of Confederation did give to the Dominion a flexible sort of revenue, but they did not give a similar advantage to the Provinces, which have to depend upon direct taxation. Now, if one Province were suffering, you might say that it was due to extravagance, but when all the Provinces are suffering, there must be something more behind it.

"I believe that with a little unanimous effort on the part of our people we can benefit from the petition that we are making to the Dominion Government.

"Go North, Young Man"

"If I had time, I would like to deal with some of the problems in the development of our coal industry, salt industry, and of others. Then you will remember that in some parts of this Province there are those who are paraphrasing saying of Horace Greeley, saying, 'Go North, young man, go North.'

'Go North,
'Where the dance of the dead men casts its flickering radiance over the Northern skies.'

"Well, so far as I am concerned I have a great deal of sympathy with those who would ask us to develop some policy with respect to the development of our resources in the Northern area, and I hope very shortly to be able to say to the people of this Province just what we expect to be able to do.

"But remember that the search for the pot of gold at the foot of the rainbow, with a disregard of the resources lying near at hand, has been the undoing of many a man in the past, and I think that the Government must follow that old policy, and must turn our attention to the development of the resources that are close at hand, before we turn our attention too much, at least, to the great undeveloped Northern parts of the province. I think possibly in closing that I cannot do better than to bring before you the words of a great English statesman who has recently passed through Canada, and has had a rare opportunity not only to estimate the resources but the future developments of this country. I think if that man were standing before you today he would say to be courageous and face the opportunities of Canada in a courageous and able way, that he would undoubtedly preach the gospel of courage, taking advantage of the opportunities before us, and at the same time from his long experience he has been able to bring a word of caution to us. In my closing message, I am going to give you the words of Premier Stanley Baldwin in which he concluded a very able address at London, England, when, with the Prince of Wales, he recommended to the business men of Great Britain that they should come to Canada and see for themselves the opportunities that exist in Canada.

Baldwin's Advice to Canada

"Premier Baldwin said:

" 'Canada has an enormous future, and if it be not impertinent to say so to Canadians, I would say: The future is with you; do not be in too much of a hurry. Your country is a country for men of the North, virile races. Quality before quantity any day. Build up with the best. What does it matter if it is a hundred years, or two hundred years, or more, before your country is full? Keep the stock you have, and the men and women you have, and see to it that the coming generations are in no whit inferior to them. I have often thought that it is a dangerous thing to the morale of a nation to get rich quickly as it is to an individual. Time is all on your side. Maintain the values; maintain the standards; and may the prayer of Canada always be the prayer of the Greek sailor which has been preserved for us by Seneca: 'God, You may save me if You will; You may sink me if You will; but whatever happens, I will always keep my rudder true'."

George F. Mehls, Kinikinik, Alberta, writes to W. H. Boyle, representative of the Alberta Wheat Pool in Edmonton, stating: "I have a letter of car inspection on the 5th of January, graded No. 3 Northern, and in my opinion this has been properly graded and I am well satisfied. Wishing the Wheat Pool a prosperous New Year."

ADVERTISING AND WEEKLY ISSUES

During the session of the Alberta legislature, *The U.F.A.* will be published weekly, in order to provide our readers with extensive reports of the proceedings in the Assembly. The issues published at the beginning and in the middle of each month will carry our usual advertising, which is ordered in the customary way for the first and fifteenth of each month. The intermediate issues, of which this is the first, will carry no advertising, or only such emergent advertising as may be specially ordered. These intermediate issues will average about 16 pages only, our other issues, corresponding to the first and fifteenth of the month, being of the normal size.

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